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WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE
United States Department of Agriculture

In Ala., Ark., Fla., Ga., Va., Miss., Mo., N.C., S.C., Tenn., Texas, Va., Okla., New Mex.

## PEANUT RESEARCH PROMISES COST CUTS IN HARVEST AND CURING

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New ideas on ways of harvesting and curing peanuts have resulted from research by the Georgia Agricultural Experiment Station and the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Stimulated by the growing demand for low unit cost of peanuts for industrial uses, the investigators have sought to supplant hand-labor practices that have persisted since the late sixties. They have suggested three solutions of the problems that begin with harvest and include also curing and picking:

The ideal solution from the quality standpoint, they say, would be to pick the peanuts off the plants at the time of digging, wash and dry them artificially or, if this proves too expensive, use curing barns with forced-air drying.

Another method, of interest to growers only, is cutting off the tops--of upright varieties--just prior to or at the time of digging, leaving the stubs with peanuts attached to be dug and stored in well ventilated field cribs with or without drying in the windrow.

A third procedure is to cut off the tops before or at digging time, leave the stubs with peanuts attached to dry in windrows for a few days; pick the nuts from the stubs directly from the windrow with a combine-type machine or a modified commercial picker; and then store the nearly dry peanuts for forced ventilation in tightly constructed cribs, small farm silos or large community silos.

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United States Department of Agriculture

In Va., W. Va., N.C., S.C., Ga., Fla., Ala., La., Miss., Tenn.

## NEW BLIGHT RESISTANT OATS SOUGHT FOR SOUTH

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Appearance of Victoria blight, often called Helminthosporium disease, in the lower South has brought about a decided change in the oat breeding program for that region, T. R. Stanton of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, recently told the Southern Agricultural Workers Association, meeting in Washington, D.C.

Mr. Stanton pointed out that most of the improved varieties now grown in the South are susceptible to the blight. Only two of the new varieties are known to be resistant and they are not widely adapted. The return of growers to the old Red Rustproof strains in many areas last fall is looked upon by some breeders as a step backward. Notwithstanding their name, the Red rustproof strains are susceptible to rusts. They mature late, and the grain characters are not as satisfactory as those in the new varieties which have accounted for high yields in recent years.

Outlook for new red oat varieties for the South, however, is more promising than was first believed. Mr. Stanton said that a number of unnamed strains derived from the resistant Bond varieties are available for further testing. Several of them show promise. In addition to these, State and Federal workers and commercial breeders are making many new crosses and selections to find new resistant strains.

Although breeding for resistance to Victoria blight has priority, work is also in progress to find new strains of red and common winter oats with resistance to crown and stem rust. In other phases of the breeding program, workers are seeking to develop: hardier varieties of fall-sown oats for colder sections of the South; improved varieties for pasture and forage; and new strains with stiff straw adapted to combine harvesting. Mr. Stanton reported that progress has been made toward all of these objectives.

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United States Department of Agriculture

In all States

## POPULAR NEW LIMA BEAN NOW AVAILABLE TO ALL GROWERS

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Fordhook 242 bush lima bean seed should be available in quantities large enough to supply all demands for the first time this year. Although it has been only five years since this U. S. Department of Agriculture introduction was turned over to the seed trade, it is already well-known and this year's seed supply is estimated at more than 2,000,000 pounds. This is 40 to 45 percent of the total supply of seed of the Fordhook type.

Fordhook 242, developed at the Department's Plant Industry Station, Beltsville, Md., by Dr. Roy Magruder and Robert Wester from a Massachusetts Experiment Station selection from the original Fordhook bush lima, has several good points that account for its rapid rise. It sets a good crop of pods even in hot weather, yields well, has good eating quality, has a thick "potato-type" seed with attractive green seed coat and does well over most of the country. Of special interest to the home gardener is the fact it yields well over a long season. It won the All-America Selections (meritorious new vegetable varieties) bronze medal in 1945.

Other bush lima developments by Magruder and Wester, in addition to Fordhook 242, include Early Market, Baby Fordhook and Peerless, the last appearing in catalogs for the first time this year. Gardeners now have their choice as to sizes of thick-seeded, high-quality limas: Baby Fordhook, small; Peerless, medium; and Fordhook 242, large.

Early Market, brought out the same year as Fordhook 242, has not attained the same popularity because it is not the Fordhook type (thick pods with thick

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green beans) but has longer, more curved and flatter pods. It is the earliest maturing of large-seeded limas and suits home gardeners where earliness is important.

The Baby Fordhook is a small thick-seeded lima that appeals particularly to home gardeners in the Southeast where it does better than most other thick-seeded ones.

Peerless, the newest, is a high-quality, thick-seeded bean with a green coat. The plant is small, an advantage in gardens with limited space. The pods are clustered near the base and most of them are filled at about the same time, a factor favoring mechanical harvesting for canneries and freezing plants. There is plenty of seed, and local seedsmen who may be without can get supplies from those who feature All-America Selections.

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United States Department of Agriculture

In Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana

## POOR SOIL GROWS TUNG TREES--NOT AT PROFIT

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Although the tung tree, now becoming important in areas of the Gulf Coast, is remarkable for survival on poor soils, it has to be well fed to produce good crops of nuts high in the quick-drying oil for which the crop is famous. Specialists of the U. S. Department of Agriculture have learned in recent years that not only must the grower have trees selected for high production, but he must feed them well with fertilizer balanced to suit their peculiar needs.

By the time a tung orchard is 8 years old, says Dr. B. G. Sitton of the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering, it should be yielding 1-1/2 to 2 tons of air-dry nuts per acre. But, he says, most of the growers are getting less than half that much. Research results from tests in Louisiana show plainly what is to be done: Since the nuts grow from terminal buds of shoots of the preceding summer, these must be moderately long shoots to provide the wide framework for putting on a lot of nuts. Well-fed trees grow good shoots and yield well. For example, 5-year-old trees that hadn't been properly fertilized got 2.5 pounds of ammonium nitrate per tree in March and put out 10 percent more shoots that were 13 percent longer. With this bigger framework the number of nuts to each terminal bud went up 27 percent. Trees treated as usual produced 25 pounds of nuts per tree. Those that got the nitrogen produced 35 pounds. Over a period of three years in which the trees got 2.5 pounds, 3 pounds, and 3.5 pounds of the fertilizer, they averaged 37 pounds per tree more than those that got none. The last year the fed trees averaged 62 pounds of nuts each.

In four years of fertilizing, the 70 trees to the acre were well enough grown to produce a total of more than two tons of nuts, just about a ton more than the year before the tung feeding test was started.

Tung growers also have the advantage of recent results of tests of fertilizing with potassium and phosphorus as well as nitrogen. Although phosphorus of itself did not produce very significant results in growth of trees and yield, the beneficial effects of nitrogen were stepped up when both were used. Potassium had a more noticeable effect on yield and increased the percentage of oil in the nuts. At the end of the fourth year of fertilizing, trees getting potassium were 9 percent larger; those getting nitrogen were 25 percent larger; those getting nitrogen and potassium were 38 percent larger than those getting neither.

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EXCLUSIVE TO EXTENSION EDITORS

United States Department of Agriculture

Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana

## SELECTED TUNG TREES REPLACING VOLUNTEERS

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Tung trees, now the basis of a growing drying-oil industry in the Gulf Coast region, in future will be much more productive. Plant breeders of the U.S. Department of Agriculture have been working for 8 years at selecting and breeding trees that not only have the desired qualities but a tendency to pass these on in their seedling progeny.

If you walk through a commercial tung orchard today, says George F. Potter of the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering, you see all kinds of trees of the same age—large, small, tall, spreading; some with large fruits, some small; some that pay good returns in oil and some that give the farmer poor return for the space, labor and investment. The reason for this uncertain situation, he says, is that up to the present most tung trees have been grown from seed of various sources---mixed lots from many trees. Research work begun in 1939 in the Gulf States by planting seed from more than 600 of the best tung trees in the South has provided the basis for greatly improved orchards.

Seed from most of the trees put to the test were variable in inheritance much like seeds from apple trees. In only a few cases were the seedlings from one of these tung trees uniformly good. Some of the finest looking parent trees produced only worthless seedlings.

So, says Mr. Potter, the only reliable way to find if a tung tree is a good parent is to try out the seedling progeny in the orchard. So far the research men have picked out four very good parent trees that have high production and uniformity---and two more that pass on high production to their seedlings but not sufficient uniformity. Seed from some of the successful selected seedlings can now be bought from growers and nurserymen. This "second generation" seed, the research men say, is probably not so good as the seed from the original trees but better than the seed of unknown performance that has been used in the past.

There are budded trees too, as the tung tree can be successfully increased this way, but it takes a year longer than the seedling way. The budded trees are more certain to be uniform than even the best of the seedlings. Budded trees of the variety LaCrosse planted on one of the experimental tung farms in 1941 produced two tons per acre when 6 years old, a record for trees of that age.

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United States Department of Agriculture

In All States

## STATE MEN TO AID IN PLANNING NATIONAL SOIL RESEARCH

Four soil scientists from the ________________ region have been designated as collaborators in a plan to integrate soils and fertilizer research of the U. S. Department of Agriculture closely with national needs.

Under the plan, 16 soil scientists, four from each of four regions, have been named by State Experiment Station directors to serve as collaborators with the staff of the Soil and Fertilizer Laboratory at Beltsville, Md.

In annual conferences at the Laboratory, the scientists will review research work in progress and suggest additional projects for investigation. At a recent conference, for example, the visiting scientists were given reports and demonstrations in research with radioactive tracers, which the Laboratory staff is using to study the uptake of phosphorus. They also saw work in progress with a new slow-acting nitrogen fertilizer called urea-form. Among other lines of research covered at the conference were investigations in the effect of some of the new chemical insecticides and weed killers on bacteria and other microorganisms in the soil.

In opening the conference, Dr. Robert M. Salter, chief of the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering, said the plan offers an excellent opportunity for coordinating State and Federal research in soils and fertilizers.

Representing the ______________ region as collaborators are: (See next page.)

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## Northeastern Region

Dr. Firman E. Bear, chairman of the soils department, New Jersey Experiment Station; Dr. E. H. Tyner, associate agronomist, West Virginia Experiment Station; Dr. A. R. Midgley, chairman department of agronomy, Vermont Experiment Station; and Dr. M. B. Russell, professor of soil science, Cornell.

## Southern Region

Dr. W. R. Paden, agronomist, South Carolina Agricultural Experiment Station; Dr. Franklin J. Fudge, professor in charge of soil fertility investigations, Texas A. & M. College; Dr. R. W. Cummings, associate director, North Carolina Experiment Station; and Dr. C. D. Hoover, head, department of agronomy, Mississippi Experiment Station.

## North Central Region

Dr. C. O. Rost, chief, division of soils, University of Minnesota; Dr. W. H. Pierre, head, department of agronomy, Iowa State College; Dr. F. C. Bauer, professor of soil fertility, Illinois Experiment Station; and Dr. H. E. Myers, head, department of agronomy, Kansas State College.

## Western Region

Dr. D. W. Thorne, head, department of agronomy, Utah Experiment Station; Dr. S. C. Vandecaveye, professor of soils, Washington Experiment Station; Dr. R. Gardner, agronomist, Colorado Experiment Station; and Dr. W. T. McGeorge, head, department of Agricultural Chemistry and Soils, Arizona Experiment Station.

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United States Department of Agriculture

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

In Ill., Ind., Iowa, Kans., Mich., Minn., Mo., Nebr., N.Y., Ohio, Wisc.

## FACT SHEET ON OATS RESISTANT TO VICTORIA BLIGHT

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Oat growers in the North Central and Northeastern States, threatened since 1945 when the new Victoria blight first became prevalent, are benefitting from a number of heavy-yielding, good-quality varieties derived from the variety named Bond, all of which are highly resistant to Victoria blight. This blight is now prevalent in nearly all States as far west as the Great Plains.

These new varieties were developed by agronomists of the U. S. Department of Agriculture and several of the State Experiment Stations. Some of the new varieties derived from Bond were well on their way to a good seed supply the year Victoria blight became threatening. The first of these varieties, Clinton, bred by the Department and the Iowa Experiment Station, was distributed in 1945 in Iowa, Indiana, and Illinois, and since supplies of seed have greatly increased it will be grown extensively in 1948 in the North Central and Northeastern oat regions. Seed of Benton, a second Bond derivative, developed by the Indiana and Iowa Stations and the Department was released the same year as Clinton. Some other Bond-derived varieties bred by the Department and State Stations are being increased for possible early distribution.

The Minnesota Experiment Station has developed and distributed two Bond-derived varieties, Bonda and Mindo, and has two more, Zephyr and Andrew, that are being increased for distribution in 1949.

The principal Victoria-blight-resistant varieties originated by the Iowa Experiment Station and the Department, and also tested in other States, are Clinton, Benton, Cherokee, Bonham, Advance, Eaton, Mohawk, Nemaha and Shelby. All of these

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varieties and the Minnesota varieties are highly resistant to leaf rust except a few of the less prevalent ones that may not become destructive because they appear late in the crop season. All of these varieties are resistant to the common races of stem rust with the exception of Eaton and Andrew (Minn.) which are not resistant to races 8 and 10. Most of them are resistant to both loose and covered smuts, although some have better resistance than others. Every one of these varieties produces grain of very heavy test weight. Nearly all have stiff to very stiff straws, a great advantage in combine harvesting.

There is every indication, says Dr. T. R. Stanton, in charge of oat breeding in the USDA Division of Cereal Crops and Diseases, Plant Industry Station, that this new group of varieties will place production of the crop on an even higher level of yield and quality than it was before the history-making varieties such as Vicland, Tama, Cedar, and others derived from Victoria crosses, were attacked by the blight.

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## Variety Recommendations by States

The various varieties are recommended for different areas: Clinton (released in 1945) for Iowa, Indiana and Illinois, also is adapted to the North Central and the Northeastern States and probably even more widely adapted; Benton (released in 1945) to Indiana and Iowa, is similarly adapted; Cherokee (released in 1948) for Kansas, and Nemaha (released in 1948) for Nebraska and Kansas; Bonham (released in 1948) for the Upper Peninsula of Michigan; Eaton (released in 1946) for the Lower Peninsula of Michigan; Mohawk (released in 1948) and Advance (released for 1949) for New York; Shelby (released for 1949) for Iowa; Bonda and Mindo (released in 1946 and 1947, respectively) for Minnesota; and Zephyr and Andrew (both released for 1949) for Minnesota.

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# WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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United States Department of Agriculture

In Kansas, Nebraska, Missouri, Oklahoma, Texas, Colorado and New Mexico

## FARMERS URGED TO FUMIGATE IF INSECTS THREATEN GRAIN

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With unusually large stocks of grain stored in farm bins and warm weather at hand, farmers are urged by ______________ __________________ (State Extension Director or State Extension Entomologist) to use special care to protect their grain from insect damage.

"If in doubt, fumigate!" Mr.______________ said.

Mr.______________ said the last count showed approximately __________ bushels of wheat stored on ____(State)______ farms and said that most of this wheat is still on the farms. He pointed out that insects become active as the weather becomes warmer. He urged that farmers inspect their bins regularly and fumigate their grain at the first sign of insects.

Approximately 1 out of every 20 bushels of the nation's farm-stored grain and cereal products are lost each year as a result of insect damage, he said. In the wheat belt the threat is greatest as indicated by the fact that 428 million bushels of wheat was reported in farm storage at the beginning of the year. This was 25 percent more wheat than was stored in farm bins at the same time last year. Nearly half of the farm-stored grain was in the 7 States of Kansas, Nebraska, Missouri, Oklahoma, Texas, Colorado, and New Mexico.

This is a time when food and feed conservation is vital, ______________ said. Neither the farmers of ____(State)______ nor the Nation can afford the losses of grain that can result if insects are not kept under control in farm grain bins.

The problem of controlling insect damage is the subject of 2 informational leaflets just issued by the U. S. Department of Agriculture's Office for Food and Feed Conservation in cooperation with the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine. One relates to the method of fumigation and the other to a year-'round program of insect control in grain bins.

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To protect grain by fumigation it is recommended that bins be fumigated with a ready-mixed fumigant of 3 parts by volume of ethelyene dichloride and 1 part of carbon tetrachloride. Mr. ____________ said the fumigant would not hurt the grain for use as food, feed, or seed. He warned, however, against inhaling the poisonous fumes.

Entomologists of the Department of Agriculture recommend to farmers the following 8-point program for year-round control of insects in farm-stored grain:

"Thoroughly clean your empty bins before refilling them with new grain. Clean up outside your bins, also.

"Don't keep bran, shorts and other milled feed or other empty feed bags near your stored grain. Often they contain insects brought in from the mill.

"Before refilling your empty storage bins, spray the floors and inside walls with an oil solution or water suspension containing 5 percent or less of DDT.

"Have your grain as dry as possible when you store it.

"Have it free as possible from broken kernels and dirt.

"Build bins and cribs tight to make fumigation easier.

"Stored grain should be inspected at least once a month. If evidence of insect damage shows up, fumigate as soon as possible."

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(Bushels of wheat in storage on farms January 1, 1948: Kansas, 97,479,000; Nebraska, 31,605,000; Missouri, 4,399,000; Oklahoma, 16,757,000; Texas, 23,611,000; Colorado, 21,259,000, and New Mexico, 2,449,000.)

NOTE TO EDITORS: The two publications mentioned are: "Save Farm Grain by Fumigation", issued January 1948 and "Save Farm-Stored Grain From Insects", OFFC-2, issued February 1948.

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United States Department of Agriculture

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## Check Your Roof in Spring Clean-Up

A well-rounded spring clean-up should be accompanied by a check-up of your roof to see what winter ice and snow and wind have done to it, advises ______________________________, State Extension agricultural engineer.

If your roof has just begun to leak, it may be easily repaired, says Mr. _______________. But if neglected, serious damage to the interior of the home may result. Finding and repairing weak places before damp spots appear on ceilings or walls are the real tests of a thorough check-up. These are the defects to look for in checking your roof: Breaks, missing shingles, choked gutters, damaged flashings, and defective mortar joints in chimneys and copings.

The State Extension agricultural engineer says the sun is very hard on roofing, especially of wood or composition shingles. This causes roofs to deteriorate more rapidly on the south side of a house than on the north side. Therefore, it is necessary to check the south slope of your roof very carefully.

Mr. _______________ points out that methods of locating leaks and making roof repairs are described in a newly revised U.S. Department of Agriculture publication. It is Farmers' Bulletin 1751, entitled "Roof Coverings for Farm Buildings and Their Repair." Among other things, the bulletin gives practical information on flashing, gutters and downspouts, snow guards, roofing nails, and the good and bad points of different types of roofing.

In discussing minor repairs, the publication suggests that missing shingles may be replaced with similar shingles or pieces of rust-resistant metal. In cases of emergency, a temporary repair can be made by using metal cut from a tin can. The piece of tin should be painted on both sides and slipped under the shingles in the upper layer. However, in making such repairs, one should take care not to dislodge or loosen sound shingles. Also, the bulletin warns that while almost anyone can make minor repairs, only an experienced man should attempt major roof repairs.

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United States Department of Agriculture

In N.C., S.C., Ga., Fla., Tenn., Ala., Miss., Ark., La., Okla., Tex., Mo., Va., Fla.

## Cottonseed Handling With Small Air Pipes
## Cuts Operating Power Costs by 50 Percent

Cotton ginners, seedsmen, and farmers may now cut in half their operating power costs in handling cottonseed by adopting a mechanical system of seed-conveying with small air pipes developed at the U. S. Cotton Ginning Laboratory, Stoneville, Miss., says ____________________________, agricultural engineer of the State Extension Service.

This new system of small air pipes, which is now in use in more than 500 gins in the Cotton Belt, enables ginners to handle seed with less than half the power required by the older seed-conveyor methods.

For handling grains, granular bulk materials, and various kinds of trash, the small-pipe systems are described as excellent by the State Extension agricultural engineer. He points out that aside from being economical and largely trouble free, this apparatus also is self-cleaning. This enables cotton producers and ginners to preserve the purity of the cottonseed.

The small-pipe systems have adequate capacity for moving from 70 to 160 pounds of cottonseed per minute. This is as fast as the cotton is ginned. Being light in weight, the apparatus is portable and can save considerable labor in unloading trucks into railroad cars at inland trackage points and in emptying cars at seed-breeders' treating and delinting plants.

Also, the small-pipe systems may be used for carrying seed to storage bins and for later removal for grading, sterilizing, and other processes at rates of handling to suit the capacity of the plant.

The device has successfully handled cottonseed for distances up to 700 feet at approximately half the operating power costs of larger pipes employing the suction method. The larger systems operate on 10 to 15 horsepower, while the small-pipe systems require only 3 to 7 horsepower. A complete description of this apparatus and how it is operated appears in a recent USDA publication -- Circular No. 768. Copies may be obtained from the Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

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United States Department of Agriculture

In Conn., Dela., Ill., Ind., Iowa, Kans., Ky., Maine, Md., Mass., Mich., Minn., Mo., Nebr., N.H., N.J., N.Y., N. Car., N. D., Ohio, Pa., R.I., S.D., Tenn., Vt., Va., W.Va., Wis.

## CORN BORER EGGS ARE DANGER SIGN

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The European Corn Borer moth is now laying its first eggs of the season in some parts of the Corn Belt. The moths may visit (State) corn fields any day now, if they haven't already started.

That is the warning issued to farmers this week by ________________ State extension entomologist.

Because of the great need for food and feed conservation, the laying of eggs by the corn borer moth is a danger signal that should be heeded, the entomologist stated.

Farmers will know that the moths have visited their fields if they find egg masses on the underside of the corn leaves, Mr. ______________ said. In the mass the eggs overlap like fish scales. At first, the eggs are pearly white. Then, a few days later, before they hatch, small black spots appear. The black spots are the heads of the borers that are ready to chew their way out and begin their lives of destruction.

It is important for each farmer to determine whether it will pay him to spray or dust to kill the corn borer, Mr. _______________ said. If insecticides are going to be used, it also is important to know when to use them. As a rule, when as many as 40 to 50 egg masses are found on 100 plants early in the egg-laying period, it's time to get out the DDT.

Mr. ________________ said this is the first year in which DDT will be put to general use in controlling the corn borer in field corn. Tests have shown that DDT or ryania are effective in the control of the corn borer in field corn if

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applied at the proper time, and if the recommendations are carefully observed. He urged that farmers consult their county agents to ascertain corn borer control practices for the respective sections of the State.

The European corn borer last year took a toll of nearly 97 million dollars from the Nation's corn crop. In ____(state)_______ it caused damage estimated at ________________dollars.

(Damage estimates by States: Maine, $110,000; New Hampshire, $21,000; Vermont, $13,000; New York, $700,000; Massachusetts, $31,000; Rhode Island, $30,000; Connecticut, $31,000; New Jersey, $360,000; Delaware, $240,000; Pennsylvania, $2,600,000; Maryland, $2,100,000; Ohio, $3,100,000; Michigan, $1,300,000; Indiana, $7,400,000; Kentucky, $500,000; Virginia, $760,000; North Carolina, $27,000; Illinois, $31,700,000; Wisconsin, $2,100,000; Minnesota, $13,900,000; Iowa, $29,300,000; Missouri, $410,000. Estimates of damage for States having lesser infestation are not available.)

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WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

EXCLUSIVE TO EXTENSION EDITORS

United States Department of Agriculture

In N.C., S.C., Ga., Fla., Tenn., Ala., Mass., Ark., La., Okla., Texas, Mo., Va.,

# FARMERS URGED TO HALT COTTON INSECT MARCH

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Armies of cotton insect pests soon will be making their annual attack upon this important food and fiber crop, and farmers should be alert to repel them, says a warning from ____________________, State extension entomologist.

He emphasized that the oils and proteins from cotton seed are urgently needed, and that insect control is all-important in today's food and feed conservation effort. These insects can be controlled before they get a good start by using recommended insecticides, the entomologists declared.

In recent years farmers have had some trouble in getting insecticides when needed because of wartime and post-war shortages. This year, however, the insecticide supply situation is relatively good.

Although cotton is regarded by a majority of people as primarily a fiber crop, this year the food and feed contribution to be made by cottonseed is extra important, the entomologists pointed out. There is serious need for all the food and feed that farmers can produce, and effective control of cotton insect pests is one way to give real help to the Nation's food and feed conservation program, he declared.

Mr. ____________________ said that cotton insect pests robbed farmers of an average of $200,000,000 worth of lint and seed each year from 1942 to 1946. In 1946 they destroyed 613,000 tons of cottonseed. The protein in this much cottonseed, he said, would have produced 178 million pounds of beef or 690 million gallons of milk. The boll weevil alone caused a loss of $40,000,000 in edible fats and livestock feed in 1946, he said.

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Mr. ____________________ urged farmers to watch for the first signs of the weevil's appearance. When 10 to 25 percent (or appropriate local figures) of the squares are found punctured by the weevils, it is time to get busy with insecticides, he said. Farmers also should examine tops of cotton plants for bollworms and watch for the appearance of other insects such as aphids, leafworms, fleahoppers, and red spider mites.

The entomologist suggested that farmers consult their county agricultural agent for information on the most effective insecticides and insect control methods.

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EXCLUSIVE TO EXTENSION EDITORS
United States Department of Agriculture

In All States

# HORNFLY CONTROL MEASURES URGED

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Hornfly season has arrived and the time has come to turn killing sprays upon this troublesome and wasteful livestock pest, __________(State Extension Entomologist) said.

The more flies killed now, the fewer that will have to be killed later in the season, Mr. _____________ pointed out. He said that good control of flies is an effective way to help conserve both food and feed.

The hornfly is one of the costliest of livestock pests. Cattle are its chief victims. In some parts of the country, when hornflies were especially numerous, they are said to have caused a drop of one-fourth to one-half in the milk production of dairy cattle. The hornfly also causes loss of weight. At the height of the season, in sections of the country where vegetation is profuse, cows have been known to spend most of their grazing time in the underbrush to sweep flies from their backs. The sores caused by hornflies also give rise to increased screwworm infestation. Such sores often originate when cattle injure themselves by rubbing against trees, running through brush, or scratching against barbed wire fences in an effort to rid themselves of hornflies.

Mr. ________________said it is important that the farmer or livestock grower use the right insecticide, use the correct formula, observe the proper method of application, and apply the insecticide when the insects are most vulnerable.

He said DDT wettable powder is effective and economical under widely varying conditions for use against hornflies. The strength of the DDT spray and amount to be used on cattle depends, to some extent, on the equipment available, type of cattle, and local conditions. He said a spray containing 0.5 percent DDT (8 pounds of 50 percent DDT wettable powder per 100 gallons of water), and applied at an average rate of 2 quarts for each mature animal, is generally effective and practical.

Farmers should consult their county agents for best spraying practices in their respective localities, he said. As a rule cattle sprayed with DDT will be protected against hornflies for about 3 weeks to 1 month.

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WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE
EXCLUSIVE TO EXTENSION EDITORS
United States Department of Agriculture

In all States

## Gardeners Warned of Bean Beetles, Cutworms

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The Mexican bean beetle and the cutworm, two of the most devastating pests in the home and truck garden, are off to their usual early start this year, according to reports received from the U. S. Department of Agriculture by ____________ State Extension Entomologist. He urged gardeners to control these pests as one means in helping conserve food.

Thus far the beetles have appeared in from light to moderate numbers in the South, while the cutworms seem to be about as numerous in the field crops of New York as they are in South Carolina and Tennessee, where they are causing moderate to heavy damage. The beetle is yellow or brownish, and has black spots on its back.

Mr. _______________ said that a rotenone mixture, applied to the undersides of the leaves, was the best way to get at the Mexican bean beetle. It is important that the insecticide be applied to the undersides of the leaves. The spraying or dusting should be done as soon as the beetles appear or when the orange yellow eggs are first noticed on the undersides of the leaves. While the beetle causes considerable damage, the larvae, or grubs, are even more destructive. These are yellow in color and fuzzy. They feed upon the undersides of the leaves and may completely strip a bean plant in one or two weeks.

Gardeners can also use the hand-picking method to destroy beetles and to crush the egg masses, but hand-picking must be repeated almost daily to be effective.

The best way to kill cutworms, Mr._______________said, is to poison them. A number of poison baits are on the market and will do the job if the gardener will follow directions on the label. Cardboard collars set around the stems of young plants to a depth of about two inches in the ground are also effective in preventing damage by cutworms.

An informational leaflet, "Save Food by Killing Garden Insects," is being issued by the Office for Food and Feed Conservation in cooperation with the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine. The leaflet tells how gardeners can reduce losses from insect damage. Copies will be available in the county agent's office, or can be obtained by writing the Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

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EXCLUSIVE TO EXTENSION EDITORS

United States Department of Agriculture

Kansas, Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, and Arizona

# 2,4-D NEEDS HELP TO GET BINDWEED IN DRY AREA

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2,4-D has not solved the problem of control of field bindweed in the Southern Great Plains, say weed specialists of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. However, their experiments show, it helps, as the combination of close drilled crops, clean cultivation and 2,4-D spraying does a good job with less labor than the other two factors without the chemical. But one application of 2,4-D alone, at least in that region, will not do a satisfactory job on the weed. In the more humid areas to the east 2,4-D is more effective on it.

The conclusions on treatment for field bindweed in the Southern Plains region are the result of several recent years of experiments by F. L. Timmons of the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering at the field station at Hays, Kans.

If there are only bindweed seedlings to contend with--after a clean cultivation and cropping treatment has killed off all the old plants, leaving only the seeds, which are long-lived--then the job of control can be done with 2,4-D. If there are old roots in the field then 2,4-D treatment should be followed by use of a smother crop. In that area close-drilled sorghum or winter wheat makes the best cover crop, Timmons has found.

The weed specialists don't yet know why in the humid areas it is easier to eradicate field bindweed with 2,4-D alone, unless it is that semiarid conditions are nearest to those of the particular part of the world this troublesome pest came from. It came from Russia--introduced in the early 80's by immigrant Mennonite farmers who brought seed of their favorite wheat along with them.

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Iowa, Illinois, No. Dak., So. Dak., Minnesota, Wisconsin, Ohio and Indiana

# PROFIT OUTLOOK FOR FALL PIG CROP BETTER GAUGED BY CORN PRICE PROSPECTS

- - -

Relative hog and corn price prospects indicate that hog farmers probably will earn more from this year's fall pig crop than they are now netting from their 1947 crop.

This year's more favorable outlook for hog farmers is indicated in an analysis of hog-corn price trends carried out by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics of the U. S. Department of Agriculture as part of a Research and Marketing Act project, and reported in time to be of use to farmers now planning their fall pig production.

An adaptation of these findings is reported in the May issue of "The Livestock and Meat Situation," a BAE publication. The article points out that many farmers use the hog-corn ratio at breeding season as a guide for determining the size pig crop they will raise. However, it calls attention to the fact that the springtime relationship between the price of hogs and of corn does not necessarily continue through the period when hogs are marketed.

A more accurate profit indicator, says the article, is a two-way look -- one at the outlook for hog prices, and the other at prospective corn prices. In this way, farmers will take account of the probabilities for size of the next corn crop and corn prices and hog-corn ratios at the time when fall pigs are fed and sold.

The value of looking at both current and futures prices of corn is indicated by BAE findings which show that in years when the December futures price of corn in June was markedly lower than the current price at that time, the hog-corn ratio improved on an average of 2.4 points by marketing time the next April. If in addition, the June hog-corn ratio was low (less than 10.5) the ratio improved 3.8 points by the next April.

In view of the present prospects for a 1948 corn crop much nearer normal than the very short crop of last year, the BAE article says it is likely that the price of new corn, after the coming harvest, will indicate a hog-corn ratio more favorable than ratios based on present corn prices. The December futures price would thus prove a more reliable guide to the profitability of hog raising in 1948-49 than would the present farm price of corn.

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In Fla., Ga., No. Car. and So. Car.

## SOUTHEAST DEVELOPING COTTON STRAINS WHICH MAY REDUCE NEED FOR IMPORTATION

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Three Southeastern States--South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida--are working with the U. S. Department of Agriculture in developing strains of long-staple cotton which may soon reduce America's need for cotton importation, say plant breeders of the Department.

Already, scientists of the Department and the State Pee Dee Experiment Station of South Carolina have developed some new strains which give promise of enabling American farmers in the southeastern part of the Cotton Belt to produce more long-staple cotton for our mills. At present, the United States is importing annually about 100,000 bales of long-staple varieties.

One of the new strains is Sealand 542. Last year, commercial growers in South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida who tried the new strain were said to be well pleased with the results. Yields were not high, largely because of adverse weather conditions, but the new variety brought 17 cents more per pound than did 15/16-inch cotton.

The new strain produces fiber 1-3/8 to 1-7/16 inches, described as fine and strong. Yields were as good as other long-staple cottons in the region. About 1,000 acres of it, which took all available seed, were planted this year in the three States. Also, a five-acre trial planting was made in New Mexico this spring, following the successful outcome of a small experimental planting in that State last year.

In an effort to increase seed production of Sealand 542, farmers in Berrien County, Ga., have organized a cooperative for the exclusive production of this new variety under conditions which will ensure seed purity.

However, the scientists still have two important problems to work out in connection with the new variety. Like all long-staple cottons, the bolls of Sealand 542 are not as fluffy as those of short-staple strains and, therefore, not as easy to pick. Also, it does not grade as high.

But the plant breeders have tackled these problems. They are making a survey of all the many hybrid lines they have and are making new ones between productive short-staple strains and a new Sealand variety with 1-5/8 inch fiber. And already, they have found a few productive types with fluffy bolls.

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In: Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Illinois, Nebraska, California, New York,
Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Texas

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# STRONG DEMAND FOR DAIRY PRODUCTS

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(For June 28 A.M. Release)

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Demand for milk and milk products will continue high at least throughout this year, according to ________________, extension economist. Domestic demand will continue very high and will be supplemented by moderate export demand.

This outlook, says ________________, is based on the monthly report, "The Dairy Situation," released today by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

Milk cow numbers have been declining since mid-'44. Number on farms last January 1 was 2.6 million less than at the first of '45. Cow numbers have declined about as much in the last 3 years as in the 4 years after the previous peak in the thirties, after the '34 drought. A 4 percent reduction in numbers took place last year and apparently the decline has continued at about same rate this year.

Whether the decline in cow numbers will continue, says ________________, depends on how farmers size up the profit outlook for dairying, compared with other kinds of farming. The current decline in cow numbers stems from several key factors. These include the fact that high prices are being paid for dairy animals for slaughter; that feed prices are high relative to dairy-product prices; and that other kinds of farming offer competitive incomes.

The number of young stock now on farms would be ample to halt the decline in numbers, reports ________________. Also, feed production prospects indicate a more favorable situation for dairying later in the year, he pointed out.

Culling and killing of dairy cows has improved the average milk capacity of the fewer cows left. Pasture conditions also have been favorable recently for

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heavy milk production. Milk per cow on June 1 was the highest on record for any date, but total milk produced first 5 months of this year was 2 billion pounds less than in same period a year ago, mainly because of the fewer cows.

Farmers' prices for dairy products have increased steadily since last October. Their prices are somewhat higher than those received by farmers for all commodities as a whole but are still low compared to prices of meat animals. Farmers' prices for dairy products in May, also, had increased less than for feed grains. Average received by farmers for all milk products was up 21 percent from a year earlier. Milk was up 23 percent; butterfat 32 percent. Retail milk prices are up about 10 percent from a year ago, or about as much as the increase in consumer's incomes.

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EXCLUSIVE TO EXTENSION EDITORS

United States Department of Agriculture

In Fla., Ga., No. Car., So. Car., Ala., Miss., Ark., and Va.

## New Control for Potato Leafhopper on Peanuts

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Better control of the potato leafhopper on peanuts now appears possible through the use of a DDT sulfur dust mixture. This wedge-shaped pale greenish insect pest about one-eighth inch long has caused considerable damage to the peanut crop for many years. Dr. P. N. Annand, Chief of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, USDA, announced today that experiments begun at the Tidewater Field Station at Holland, Virginia in 1944 and continued through 1947 revealed that DDT-sulfur dust mixture could be used safely on peanut vines. The mixture kills 25 to 30 percent more leafhoppers than does sulfur alone. Residues of the insecticide also prevent the vines from quickly becoming reinfested with leafhoppers. The addition of DDT to the mixture aids in control of many insects injurious to peanuts, such as the velvetbean caterpillar and other leaf-feeders.

Dr. Annand said increases consistently average about 25 percent in yields of field-cured nuts as a result of the control of the potato leafhopper and peanut leaf spot with the DDT-sulfur dust.

The experiments were conducted by Department entomologist F. W. Poos in cooperation with E. T. Batten, Superintendent of the Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station. The experiments were made with dusts containing 1 to 5 percent of DDT and 90 percent of fine dusting sulfur. It was found that a dust containing 1 percent of DDT, 90 percent of sulfur, and 9 percent of a conditioning agent to improve its dusting quality, when applied 3 times at 3-week intervals beginning about July 10 - 15th, gave adequate control of the potato leafhopper, as well as peanut leaf spot. The first application, they found, should be made at the rate of 15 to 20 pounds per acre. Not more than 80 pounds per acre should be applied in one season.

The best dates and rates of application might be different in other states from those given above for the Virginia and North Carolina area.

The potato leafhopper is a sucking insect which drains the juices from the growing peanut plant causing a browning of the tips and margins of the leaves and a yellowing and dwarfing of the foliage. The leaf spot diseases of peanuts are characterized by brown spots on the leaves and stems, and cause the leaves to turn yellow and drop off.

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United States Department of Agriculture

In Oklahoma, Kansas, Colorado, Texas and New Mexico

# SAVAGE TO HEAD SOUTHERN PLAINS STATION AT WOODWARD, OKLAHOMA

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David A. Savage has been appointed Superintendent of the Southern Great Plains Field Station at Woodward, Okla., according to an announcement of the U. S. Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering which carries on research work there in cooperation with five States--Oklahoma, Kansas, Colorado, New Mexico, and Texas.

Mr. Savage, a native of Montana and a graduate of Montana State College, has been doing forage and range research work in the Department for 24 years, first in the Northwest and later in the Southwest. He carried on studies for a number of years at the Bureau's station at Hays, Kansas, and has worked for the past ten years at Woodward.

The research at the Southern Great Plains Field Station in recent years has increasingly emphasized grass improvement and range pasture practices. In addition to this work, the Bureau will continue studies on shelterbelts, small grains and sorghums, and soils, principally crop rotations.

The new Superintendent has given his attention almost entirely to agronomic problems of the range region. He succeeds the Acting Superintendent, Lowell F. Locke, who will devote his time to crop rotations and other soil studies.

The research on range forage improvement at this station has resulted in promising developments in the use of cool-season grasses to lengthen the grazing season and increase range returns to stockmen. Notable among these promising grasses is Western wheat grass. Much attention has been given to the possibilities of other native grasses of the region and to such range problems as the eradication of sagebrush. The station has obtained good results against this pest through spraying from airplane with 2,4-D, a practice now being used increasingly by ranchers.

Mr. Savage takes up his new duties immediately.

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WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE
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United States Department of Agriculture

In So. Car., Ga., Ala., Miss., Ark., La., Okla., Tex., N.Mex., Ariz., Calif.

## Cotton Harvest Study Shows Ways To Cut Machine Stripper Losses

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Ways are being found to reduce cotton losses resulting from harvesting with mechanical strippers, report the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station and the U.S. Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

Under the Research and Marketing Act, these two agencies are making a study of the economics of mechanized cotton production.

After studying mechanical cotton stripping on 20 farms in the high plains of Texas, the researchers conclude that losses vary greatly from farm to farm. The extent of losses from mechanical stripping depends on: (1) type of cotton grown, (2) condition of the field at harvesting time, and (3) the skill of the machine operator.

However, the study shows that waste from mechanical stripping in the Texas high plains is not much larger than from hand picking. By the former, losses average from two to six percent, while by the latter, they range up to three percent.

Ways of reducing machine stripper losses, indicated by the study, include: (1) the planting of storm-resistant cotton which is better adapted to machine stripping because the plant has fewer and shorter branches, (2) careful preparation of the fields, spacing rows 40 inches apart, since strippers are set this width at the factory, (3) keeping trash and clods out of the way of the stripper, (4) placing a hood over the elevator where it opens into the trailer to keep the winds that sweep across the Texas plains from blowing cotton over the side of the trailer, and (5) careful operation of machine strippers by experienced tractor drivers.

In line with the suggestion that storm-resistant or other types of cotton be planted that are adapted to machine harvesting, researchers at the Texas Experiment Station and private breeders are now trying to develop special varieties for machine stripping.

Researchers say that as farmers learn more about the operation of mechanical strippers and as the machine itself is further improved, losses probably will be reduced.

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United States Department of Agriculture

In Northern Great Plains States (North and South Dakota, Montana, Wyoming, Nebraska

## Spacing Distances for Windbreak Trees on Northern Great Plains

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Spacing distances of 8 by 8 feet for windbreak plantings of green ash trees and of 8 by 4 feet plantings of ash and other species give the best over-all growth and the highest rate of survival, according to a study recently completed by the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Basis of the study were trees spaced at various distances and grown under identical conditions at the Northern Great Plains Field Station in Mandan, North Dakota, and on a large number of cooperating farms. The first of the experimental plantings was set out in 1915. Measurements of growth including height, trunk diameter at breast height, and crown spread of each tree were taken at intervals of three to five years.

Reporting on the findings in a circular released by the Department, Ernest J. George, Silviculturist at the Field Station, points out that the widely adapted drought-resistant green ash thrived better in windbreaks where it was combined with other species - elm, birch, boxelder, Chinese elm, poplar, Russian olive, and willow - than in those where it was used alone.

In farm plantings variously spaced from 4 by 8 feet to 6 by 15 feet, increased distance tended to decrease growth and survival of the trees. Wide-spaced green ash trees suffered greater injury and made slower recovery from the severe droughts of 1934 and 1936 than the closely spaced trees. Early freezes when soil moisture was plentiful caused greater injury to wide-spaced Chinese elm and Russian olive trees than to those closely spaced.

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United States Department of Agriculture

In Maine, Mass., Vt., N.H., Conn., N.Y., Penna., Ohio, Mich., Minn., Wisc.
No. Dak., So. Dak., Nebr., Iowa, Ill., Ind., Tenn., Ky., Mo., Ark., Ala., Miss.,
No. Car., So. Car., Ga., Va., W. Va., N.J., Md., La., Fla.

## Farmers Can Cut Cost of Crop Disease Control By Prompt Reporting to Forecasting Service

Farmers can help protect their crops against plant diseases, as well as save money on precautionary measures by promptly reporting the appearance of crop diseases to the new plant disease forecasting service operated by this and 36 other states in cooperation with the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Farmers can cooperate by reporting promptly the appearance of diseases to the county agent. Through him the information will be relayed to the State pathologists and on to headquarters where warnings are prepared when justified.

The crop disease forecasting service was established about a year ago. The new service for farmers, which is based on careful plant disease research, might be compared to the storm warnings of the Weather Bureau, except for the longer time covered in crop disease forecasting, says Dr. Paul Miller, in charge of the Service.

He points out that effective forecasting means money in the farmer's pocket, any way you look at it. When forecasting research indicates that a particular plant disease is likely to be inactive during a crop season, growers can save the money that they might otherwise spend taking precautionary measures. On the other hand, if an epidemic is forecast, growers can save their crops, which usually means even more money saved to those who heed the warning.

This year the service, which is centered at the Plant Industry Station, Beltsville, Md., is giving special attention to three crop diseases widespread in the eastern half of the country -- late blight of potatoes and tomatoes, blue mold of tobacco, and downy mildew of cucumbers, cantaloups, and watermelons.

By the middle of July, 35 different warning letters had been sent to plant pathologists of the 37 cooperating States. Dr. Miller says the plan is to include other important diseases as the forecasting service develops.

Regional research is going on to provide information on which to base more accurate predictions of epidemics. With better predictions, Dr. Miller asserts, farmers can make plans to fight the diseases when their crops are most liable to be attacked, and manufacturers and distributors of spray materials can make them available in quantities needed.

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United States Department of Agriculture

In Texas, Okla., La., N.Mex., Miss., Wisc., Kans., Ill., Iowa, Mo., Ohio, Ark., and Tenn.

## Bigger Market for West Texas Potatoes Anticipated if Quality is Improved

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West Texas potato growers face the task of marketing about twice the volume of potatoes they sold prewar, and they have some serious problems to solve if they are going to sell them on commercial markets. That, broadly, is the conclusion reached in a study made under the Research and Marketing Act by the Production and Marketing Administration, U. S. Department of Agriculture. The study covered retailers, terminal market dealers, producers, and others. West Texas potatoes, according to the report, are distributed to various out-of-State destinations in Oklahoma, Louisiana, New Mexico, Mississippi, Wisconsin, Kansas, Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, Ohio, Arkansas, and Tennessee.

Although many receivers praised the west Texas potatoes, there were far too many complaints about quality. Some receivers said the growers irrigated their fields just before digging the potatoes, making the water content high and seriously injuring the keeping qualities of the crop. Others mentioned a lack of icing facilities; they said that refrigerated potatoes arrived in good condition, but that many of those not refrigerated arrived in poor condition or deteriorated rapidly after arrival. There were complaints also that many potatoes from this area barely met grade requirements; and that the Long White varieties were misshapen.

The report suggests that growers, shippers, and the Federal-State Inspection Service for fresh fruits and vegetables cooperate in putting on the market standardized potatoes well above the minimum requirements for each grade. It recommends studies to measure the actual effect of late irrigation on maturity and keeping qualities of the crop, and to learn the causes of the poor shape of the White Rose variety in the area. Experiments to learn the best refrigeration practices also are suggested.

Although it may be necessary to reduce potato acreage in this area (the Government bought 44 percent of the west Texas potatoes shipped last year), the survey indicates also that a materially larger volume of potatoes could be sold in nearby southwest Texas and other markets if greater attention were given to improving the quality of the crop through changes in growing, harvesting, grading, and shipping methods.

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EXCLUSIVE TO EXTENSION EDITORS

United States Department of Agriculture

In All States

## Separate Sprayer for 2,4-D Advised by Specialists

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Farmers who plan to use 2,4-D for weed control next spring should be thinking about spray equipment now, say weed specialists of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Demands for sprayers far exceeded the supply this past year when the chemical was widely used to control weeds in corn, wheat, rice, flax, and fine turf.

For safety and effectiveness, use separate spray equipment in applying 2,4-D, the specialists advise. The chemical is highly potent. It will kill or damage most broadleaved plants -- valuable crops as well as weeds. Small quantities left in a sprayer later used for insecticides or fungicides will damage sensitive plants.

The weed killer should be applied at low pressure, from 40 to 60 pounds per square inch. Use a sprayer equipped with coarse nozzles that make a fan-shaped spray to avoid fine mists likely to drift long distances and to injure other crops.

Equipment of this type can be built on the farm. Whether you build or buy, use a sprayer large enough to get over your acreage within 3 or 4 days.

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United States Department of Agriculture

N. J., Md., Va., N.C., S.C., Ga., Fla., Ky., Tenn., Ala., Miss., Ark., La.,
Texas, Calif.

## Protect Sweetpotatoes From Rot by Proper Storage

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Sweetpotato growers can cut down losses from rot by carefully curing and storing their crop at the proper temperature and humidity the State Extension Service suggests.

Sweetpotatoes have for years been "cured" before storage--kept for about 10 days immediately after harvest at a temperature of 85°F. and a relative humidity of about 85 percent. The explanation for the success of this process is that when the skin of a sweetpotato tuber is broken in the harvesting process, the tuber forms a layer of corky cells which heals the wound. This process takes place most rapidly in fairly high temperature and moisture conditions.

Even with the greatest possible care in handling, there are at least two small wounds on almost every sweetpotato, where the ends are broken in harvesting. Until completely healed by the formation of new cells, these breaks are entrances for disease-producing organisms. U. S. Department of Agriculture specialists working in cooperation with the Southeastern States have found that wound-cork layers formed beneath the dried and hardened wound surface greatly retards infection and to a large degree actually prevents it.

At a temperature of about 85° F. and a relative humidity of about 85 percent, this healing process begins by the third day and proceeds rapidly.

To build up protection against rot as soon as possible, the potatoes must be placed in the curing house at the prescribed temperature and relative humidity within a few hours after digging. In no case should harvested sweetpotatoes be allowed to remain outside the storage house overnight.

After the potatoes are cured, storage house temperatures should drop to about 55° F., but relative humidity should be maintained at the same 80 to 85 percent. Storage temperatures should not be allowed to go below 50° F, or cold damage may result.

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United States Department of Agriculture

In New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Virginia, Washington, Oregon, California, New York, Texas, Tennessee, Nebraska, Maryland, Vermont and Massachusetts

## New Leaflet on More Milk from Better Pastures

"How to get more milk from your pastures" is the title of a new 4-page leaflet just issued by the U.S. Bureau of Dairy Industry, which stresses the importance of pastures for economical milk production and discusses the essential points in the development of a successful pasture program.

Based on research by dairy and pasture specialists at Beltsville, Md., and supplemented by results from several State experiment stations, the leaflet furnishes information in support of the long-range dairy program now being conducted cooperatively by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the State extension services, and the Dairy Industry Committee.'

Several helpful measures are explained as a means of improving permanent pastures or establishing supplemental grazing. Topics discussed are: selecting proper land for pastures; fertilization as a means of producing earlier spring grazing; additional summer grazing; late summer and fall grazing; crop-and-pasture rotation; pasture renovation; rotational grazing; and the general management of pastures.

This leaflet is available from your State Extension Service or from the Bureau of Dairy Industry, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D.C.

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United States Department of Agriculture

In Ark., Conn., Del., Ill., Ind., Iowa, Kans., Ky., Maine, Md., Mass., Mich., Minn., Mo., Nebr., N.H., N.J., N.Y., N.C., Ohio, Okla., Penna., Tenn., Va., W. Va., Wisc.

## Strawberry Yields Reduced by Yellows

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Yellows, a virus disease of strawberries, long a serious problem in the West, is now also causing heavy losses in the East, reports the U. S. Department of Agriculture. J. B. Demaree, plant pathologist of the Department finds the greatest concentration of the disease in the Middle Atlantic States but has observed the infection as far South as Teacheys, N. C. The disease is spread by aphids.

Mr. Demaree finds that not only are most of the older varieties such as Aroma, Catskill, Dorsett, Dunlap, and Howard 17 (Premier) infected, but that some of the more recently introduced varieties as Fairpeake, Midland, and Maytime carry the virus.

The disease is not so easily recognized in eastern varieties as it is in Marshall and Marshall-like varieties grown west of the Rockies where conspicuous yellowing of the leaf edges is a tell-tale sympton. This is masked or transitory in many of the eastern varieties. Here the symptoms are dwarfing of plants and lack of vigor. In the fall they show up in poor runner production. These symptoms become accentuated in the second year. Eastern growers, not recognizing the trouble, have believed that weak, hard-to-grow plants were the result of varieties "running out." The effect in all varieties is reduced yield.

Mr. Demaree suggests attacking the problem in two ways in order to eliminat yellows from strawberry stocks. One is for the growers themselves to use only vigorous plants taken from fields known to be productive. He recommends plants that are making runners freely and with large green smooth leaves on upright stems.

(more)

The other is for research workers to index the more desirable varieties to find stocks of each that are virus free. This is done by grafting a plant of the variety under test to a virus-free indicator plant of the Marshall or Marshall-like varieties. Plants proved free of virus must be carefully propagated in an aphid-free area and used to replace present infected stock.

Mr. Demaree believes this indexing can best be done by State experiment station workers. Since each State grows comparatively few varieties, he says it will be a relatively small task to index those best adapted for that particular State. When enough have been propagated, a portion can be distributed to plant growers for mass production under State regulations that assure maintenance of clean stock.

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United States Department of Agriculture

In Tenn., Ky., Ala., Miss., Va., N.C., S.C., Ga., Fla., Ark., La., Tex., Mo., and Okla.

## Mowing Pastures Returns $9 for $1

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Mowing bluegrass pastures to control weeds increased the amount of grazing for dairy cattle by 23 percent over that obtained from unmowed pastures at the Lewisburg, Tenn., dairy experiment station, according to a report from the Bureau of Dairy Industry, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

One of the experimental plots was mowed twice during each of four seasons (1943-46) to control the weeds; the other plot was not mowed, and neither plot received any fertilizer or other treatment. The cost of mowing averaged $1.85 per acre. The mowed pasture gave a net return of $65 per acre per year, in terms of milk produced, and the unmowed pasture returned $49 per acre.

A return of $16 for $1.85 is about a 9 to 1 ratio. Mowing controls the weeds and brush that cattle do not graze and increases the growth and spread of desirable grasses.

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## Right Combination of Grasses and Clovers Improves Pastures

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A pasture seeded to orchard grass and Ladino clover produced more milk-producing feed per acre than any other combination of grasses and clovers on tests at the Lewisburg, Tenn., dairy experiment station, according to a report from the Bureau of Dairy Industry, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

The mixture of orchard grass and Ladino clover was sown on a good seedbed in August 1942, which had been limed and manured, and it produced good grazing the next year. Over the 4-year period (1943-46), Jersey cows on this pasture produced a yearly average of 6,472 pounds of milk and 298 pounds of butterfat per acre. The net return averaged $176 per acre per year, as indicated by the value of the milk above the cost of the home-grown grain ration that was fed and the cost of establishing and maintaining the pasture.

The next best results were obtained from a pasture treated similarly, except that it was seeded to a mixture of orchard grass and Louisiana white clover. The annual net return from this pasture was $138 per acre.

The experimental work indicated also that bluegrass pastures can be improved by applying lime and manure and a good seed mixture to the original sod. A mixture of white clover and hop clover broadcast on the original sod produced an annual net return of $72 per acre during the 4-year period, and a mixture of Korean lespedeza, common lespedeza, white clover, and hop clover produced a net return of $66. A plot of original sod that was not seeded produced a net return of $49 per acre.

"When a net return of $49 can be raised to a net return of $66 to $176 an acre by various methods used in this experiment, more dairymen should be following these practices," says the Department of Agriculture investigators. "County agents or the State agricultural college can advise dairymen about the best fertilizer treatments and seed mixtures for local conditions."

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In all States

## County Agent Points to New Booklet on Farm Finances

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Modern farming requires more and greater skills than almost any other occupation, and this applies to the financial as well as other sides of farming, says ______________________ (Extension official) in referring to a publication just issued by the U. S. Department of Agriculture, called "Managing Farm Finances."

Farmers must not only be expert at growing crops and raising livestock -- but must also know how to handle the complexities of the business side of farming, he pointed out. The major points of good financial management on farms, he said, are set out in the publication, "Managing Farm Finances," which was prepared by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

The new booklet suggests things to look for in investing money, and gives pointers on buying a farm. A section, entitled "How Much is a Farm Worth?" explains how to figure the value of a farm based on annual returns from the farm and the interest rate for loans.

It discusses use of credit for buying farm machinery as well as farm land. It explains how one can budget his debts for seasonal needs, so as to avoid paying interest on money until the money is actually needed. It gives hints for making wise decisions as to investments for the home as well as credit for purchase of farm machinery and for other productive purposes. It explains the use of notes, mortgages, and other credit instruments. There is a section on "Reserves in Farming"; sections on insurance -- fire, windstorm, and hail, auto insurance, and life insurance. Finally, there are tables useful in figuring out how fast a dollar accumulates at compound interest over given periods of time, and how much must be paid each year in order to pay off a loan in any given number of years.

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## United States Department of Agriculture

In all States:

### Corn-Hog Situation More Favorable to Farmers, County Agent Points Out

The big corn crop and relative scarcity of all meat animals place hog farmers in a very favorable position for feeding and one that is likely to continue favorable, say (State Extension Official).

Quoting from the "Livestock and Meat Situation", recently released by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Mr.____________ points out that the hog-corn price ratio has become more favorable this fall "because corn prices, last 2 months, have declined faster than hog prices."

Hog prices are not expected to decline much further and probably will rise seasonally after December. Average corn prices on the other hand are expected to stay down, close to the loan-support level of $1.44 per bushel. Farmers have shipped at least as many hogs from their spring pig crop as they usually do by this time. These fairly large marketings to date have contributed to lower hog prices, which were down 20 percent in mid-November from mid-September. The average drop between those months has been about 14 percent, but the marketings to date mean that about an average spread of marketings over the rest of the season can be expected. The December-January peak may not be as high and sharp as usual, and marketings will decline early next year.

Total hog slaughter in the October-April season this winter will be moderately smaller than last year because the spring pig crop of 1948, the source of most hogs marketed at that time, was 3 percent smaller than the 1947 spring crop. Moreover, more gilts will be withheld from slaughter for breeding this winter than last.

Numbers of cattle and sheep slaughtered have declined in recent weeks from their seasonal peak and are smaller than a year ago. In late October and first

(more)

half of November, cattle slaughter was 15 to 25 percent less than last year, as fewer range animals moved to slaughter and more moved to feed lots.

The big feed crops of 1948 will result in some increase in meat production. The Department of Agriculture has announced a goal of 60 million spring pigs, 17 percent more than last year. Nevertheless, no big rise in meat output is in sight. Both cattle and sheep numbers have been declining, and it will be several years before recent levels of slaughter of these meat animals will be regained. Even if the spring pig goal is reached, total 1949 meat output is not likely to be much if any larger than in 1948.

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In All States

Farm Land Values Continue to Rise Despite
Leveling of Net Earnings, ____________ Says

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"U. S. farm land values during the year ending November 1 continued strong even though farmers' net incomes in most areas have been leveling off in 1948," says (Extension Official)______.

Referring to "Current Developments in the Farm Real Estate Market," released today by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, Mr.____________points out that farm real estate values for the country as a whole have risen about the same in the past 12 months as during the preceding year -- 8 percent. He calls attention to the fact, however, that this 8 percent rise in each of the past two years, has been less than in any year since 1942. During the years 1942 to '46 the increase averaged about 12 percent, or 1 percent per month.

The increase during the past 4 months was 2 percent, only ½ of 1 percent a month. This 2-percent increase for the 4-month period compares with an increase of only 1 percent for the same period a year ago. States where land values rose most during the 4-month period were Montana, 7 percent; Louisiana, 6 percent; Oregon, Oklahoma and Georgia, 5 percent. In the West South Central States the rise was about 3 percent from July, while in the Corn Belt and most of the Southeastern States values were up only about 1 percent. The declines shown for California and Florida since November 1947 appear to have halted during the past 4 months, althoug the current level in these States is still about 5 percent below a year ago.

Land values in (your State - see table) in November were ____ percent above (below) a year ago and ____ percent above prewar (1935-39 average).

(more)

Buyers of farm land apparently are paying more attention to long-time earnings from farms than short-time earnings, according to the BAE report. "From the prewar period 1935-39, to November 1948, U. S. land values had increased 113 percent. But that was only about two-fifths as much as the increase in net farm income," it was pointed out.

There has been a drop, however, in the number of farms sold. Although a half more U. S. farms are changing hands by voluntary sale than before the war, substantially fewer were sold this summer and early fall than during the same period in '47. Buyers appear to be more cautious and selective in buying farms. Some are inclined to delay purchasing "until future trends in prices become more certain." Owners, on the other hand, appear to be slow in offering farms for sale. Reports indicate that "relatively few farms will be offered in the better farming areas, as long as current income remains high and no alternative investments paying comparable returns are available." In this situation, the land market generally is neither "bearish" nor "bullish" but firm.

Dealers in areas containing extensive industrial development, especially in New England, the South Atlantic, and the Pacific States, continue to report strong demand for small farms for rural homes and part-time farms. Buyers in these areas tend to be selective with respect to location, and buildings and improvements, but often pay prices out of line with the farm's agricultural value.

Percentage change in farm real estate values
(All increases except as indicated by minus sign)

| | 1935-39 Average to: Nov. 1948 | Nov. 1947 to Nov. 1948 | | 1935-39 Average to: Nov. 1948 | Nov. 1947 to Nov. 1948 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Alabama | 125 | 7 | Nebraska | 95 | 17 |
| Arizona | 97 | 2 | Nevada | 74 | 5 |
| Arkansas | 178 | 16 | New Hampshire | 62 | 5 |
| California | 89 | - 5 | New Jersey | 67 | 1 |
| Colorado | 188 | 10 | New Mexico | 139 | 12 |
| Connecticut | 56 | 3 | New York | 75 | 9 |
| Delaware | 90 | - 1 | North Carolina | 157 | 8 |
| Florida | 59 | - 6 | North Dakota | 75 | 8 |
| Georgia | 153 | 11 | Ohio | 139 | 9 |
| Idaho | 112 | 7 | Oklahoma | 126 | 16 |
| Illinois | 126 | 8 | Oregon | 110 | 7 |
| Indiana | 159 | 10 | Pennsylvania | 85 | 6 |
| Iowa | 113 | 9 | Rhode Island | 64 | 9 |
| Kansas | 121 | 15 | South Carolina | 164 | 14 |
| Kentucky | 184 | 4 | South Dakota | 88 | 16 |
| Louisiana | 101 | 7 | Tennessee | 163 | 7 |
| Maine | 52 | 4 | Texas | 109 | 13 |
| Maryland | 110 | 4 | Utah | 75 | 5 |
| Massachusetts | 45 | 9 | Vermont | 81 | 6 |
| Michigan | 134 | 8 | Virginia | 128 | 9 |
| Minnesota | 92 | 10 | Washington | 122 | 1 |
| Mississippi | 147 | 10 | West Virginia | 89 | 12 |
| Missouri | 100 | 6 | Wisconsin | 76 | 11 |
| Montana | 173 | 12 | Wyoming | 179 | 16 |

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